

**ALEXANDRIA'S ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION**

**Legislative Priorities for 2012 General Assembly Session**

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1. Support a tax incentive for businesses in Virginia that hire low-income Virginia residents as employees (validated through payroll records and/or audit).
2. Support tax incentive legislation and maintain current State funding for existing Virginia businesses to promote on-the-job training for new hires and apprenticeship programs for low-income and/or unemployed Virginians in professional and skilled industries.
3. Support legislation to establish a Virginia Housing Trust Fund to provide more affordable housing in Alexandria. Providing more affordable housing would increase the quality of life for people who cannot afford to live near their workplace and are forced to commute long distances. Making it affordable for people to live in the same community in which they work will have additional benefits to society at large. It will reduce traffic congestion, road deterioration, air pollution, and demand for gasoline. Furthermore, citizens, who both live and work in Alexandria, are more likely to become involved in promoting the safety of their neighborhoods and schools and in supporting their local businesses, churches, and other civic organizations.
4. Support restoration of State funding to Community Action Agencies. Community Action Agencies assess community needs and mobilize assistance from private-sector partners, volunteers and faith-based groups. Community Services Block Grant funding allows the flexibility to meet local community priorities and needs, while continuing to meet State priorities.